

Message Text

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TAGS: AORG, EAID, AFIN, IAEA
SUBJECT: IAEA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE - NOVEMBER 29, 1973

REF: STATE 232647

1. SUMMARY: COMMITTEE APPROVED 1974 TA PROGRAM AFTER COORDINATED LDC ATTACK, DEVOID OF COMMENT ON DRAFT PROGRAM CONTENT, WHICH INCLUDED PRESSURE TO PUT STUDY OF FINANCING TA TO FEBRUARY BOARD, AND INDICATION THAT LDC'S INITIAL ASKING FIGURE FOR LEVEL OF 1975 TARGET WILL BE \$6-MILLION RPT \$6-MILLION. INDIAN PROPOSAL THAT TAC ALSO APPROVE PROJECTS FOR WHICH NO FUNDS AVAILABLE FENDEED OFF WITH MENTION (NOT APPROVAL) IN TA REPORT TO BOARD. END SUMMARY.

2. ANNUAL TAC MEETING, WHICH HAS LASTED ABOUT 1 HOUR IN PAST FEW YEARS, LATED NEARLY 5 HOURS IN A.M. AND P.M. SESSIONS. COMMITTEE GAVE PRO-FORMA CONSIDERATION TO 1974 PROJECTS DESCRIBED SCHEDULE B OF COMMITTEE DOCUMENT (GOV/COM.8/47/ADD.1), AND APPROVED ALL. OTHER DISCUSSION WAS DOMINATED BY LDC'S (ONLY FEW DEVELOPED COUNTRIES INTERVENED, LATE IN MEETING); INDONESIAN AND INDIAN AMBASSADORS BEGAN WITH EXTENSIVE STATEMENTS AND OTHERS SPOKE TO ONE OR MORE OF POINTS THEY RAISED. USSR POLITICAL INTERVENTION, BRIEF DISCUSSION OF EVALUATION OF TA PROJECTS, AND OTHER BACKGROUND WITH MISSION COMMENT REPORTED UNCLASSIFIED

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SEPARATELY.

3. DG INTRODUCTION: DDG (TA) GOSWAMI NOTED TREND TOWARD PROJECTS RELATING TO POWER REACTOR ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY;

SECRETARIAT FELT THIS AREA AND AGRICULTURE LIKELY TO EXPAND IN FUTURE YEARS, WHILE MEDICAL APPLICATIONS WOULD CONTINUE AS IMPORTANT, BUT NOT GROWING, PART OF FUTURE PROGRAMS. INCREASING SOPHISTICATION OF LDC NUCLEAR PROGRAMS RESULTED IN GROWING PERCENTAGE OF REQUESTS WHICH WERE WELL-PREPARED AND FULLY JUSTIFIED BUT WOULD NOT BE PROPOSED DUE LACK OF FUNDS.

4. TA IN REGULAR BUDGET: INDONESIA AND INDIA (ENDORSED BY SEVERAL OTHERS) REGRETTED INDICATION FROM SECRETARIAT THAT STUDY REQUESTED BY JUNE BOARD WOULD NOT BE READY BEFORE JUNE 1974, AND HOPED FOR PRESENTATION TO FEBRUARY BOARD. BRAZIL SUGGESTED THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, DG PRESENT PRELIMINARY OR INTERIM REPORT IN FEBRUARY. DG REMINDED COMMITTEE THIS COMPLICATED MATTER, BUT SAID HE WOULD PRESENT A PAPER TO FEBRUARY BOARD, PERMITTING PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION, WITH FINAL REPORT TO BE DISCUSSED BY JUNE BOARD. COMMENT: ONLY OBLIQUE REFERENCE WAS MADE BY LDC'S TO CONTENT OF STUDY. END COMMENT.

5. TRAINING: INDONESIA NOTED 1973 TA REPORT SHOWED LARGE DROP IN FELLOWSHIP AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES, AND SUGGESTED AGENCY CONSIDER REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF SYMPOSIA ON SCIENTIFICALLY ADVANCE SUBJECTS IN FAVOR OF STUDY GROUPS ON SUBJECTS OF INTEREST IN THIS, SINCE SUCH SUBJECTS ALREADY HAVE INTEREST OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS (EVIDENT REFERENCE TO OECD/NEA), AND HOPED SAC TAKE SUGGESTION INTO ACCOUNT. COSTA RICA AND MEXICO SUPPORTED THIS PROPOSAL EXPLICITLY; OTHER ENDORSED IT. GOSWAMI REPLIED THAT DROP IN 1972 TRAINING MAN/MONTHS REFLECTED DROP IN 1972 TRAINING MAN/MONTHS REFLECTED DROP IN UNDP-FUNDED REGIONAL PROJECTS (TRAINING COURSES) FROM 15 IN 1971 TO 2 IN 1972, WHICH IN TURN RESULTED FROM DESIRE OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL TO APPLY MORE RESOURCES TO COUNTRY IPF'S; AGENCY COULD DOO LITTLE ABOUT THIS, ALTHOUGH SOME REVERSAL THIS TREND NOTED THIS YEAR. FELLOWSHIPS HAD SUFFERED NO ABSOLUTE DECLINE, AND REGULAR PROGRAM THIS YEAR INCLUDED INCREASED PROVISION FROM AGENCY RESOURCES FOR FELLOWSHIPS AND TRAINING. COMMENT: GOSWAMI DID NOT SPEAK DIRECTLY TO IDEA OF REDUCING NUMBER OF SYMPOSIA ON ADVANCED SUBJECTS, AND MISSION SUSPECTS WE MAY UNCLASSIFIED

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HEAR MORE OF THIS AT A&B COMMITTEE. END COMMENT.

6. TA AREA OFFICE IN LATIN AMERICA: SEESPITE FIRM WAY GOSWAMI SQUASHED THIS EARLY IN YEAR, BRAZIL, SPEAKING FOR LATIN CAUCUS, HOPED AGENCY WOULD RESTUDY MATTER WITH DIFFERENT CONCLUSION. COSTA RICA, PERU, ARGENTINA, CHILE SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED. INDONESIA AND PHILIPPINES ALSO ENDORSED, HOPING FAILURE (IN AGENCY'S EYES) OF ASIAN REGIONAL OFFICE WOULD NOT PRECLUDE ESTABLISHMENT SUCH OFFICES, WITH BETTER TERMS OF REFERENCE, IN OTHER REGIONS. SECRETARIAT DID NOT RESPOND. COMMENT: THIS IS ANOTHER PROPOSAL MISSION FEELS WE WILL HEAR MORE ABOUT, POSSIBLY TO EXTENT OF TRYING TO INSERT IT IN DRAFT 1975 BUDGET AT A&B COMMITTEE, EVEN OVER SECRETARIAT OBJECTIONS. END COMMENT.

7. RECIPIENT COUNTRIES: INDIA NOTED ALLOCATION OF FUNDS LOWER THAN LAST YEAR, AND NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS HAS DROPPED FROM 53 TO 46. THIS INCLUDED ONLY 3 (HE LATER EXPLAINED HE HAD EXCLUDED ARAB STATES) AFRICAN STATE, AND REQUESTED EXPLANATION. PHILIPPINES ENDORSED INDIAN CONCERN, AND INQUIRED WHY MALAYSIA NOT INCLUDED. SEVERAL OTHERS SUGGESTED THAT AGENCY SHOULD SEND VISITING MISSIONS TO POTENTIAL RECIPIENT LDC'S TO ASSESS REQUIREMENTS AND HELP PREPARE REQUESTS. GOSWAMI SAID 6 STATES WHICH MADE REQUESTS NOT ENDORSED BY AGENCY WERE: ALBANIA, BOLIVIA, KENYA, SIERRA LEONE, UGANDA, ZAMBIA; AFTER FURTHER CLARIFICATION, HE HOPED THESE BE FUNDED BY UNDP OR 1975 AGENCY PROGRAM. TOTAL OF ABOUT 19 AFRICAN COUNTRIES RECEIVED ASSISTANCE OTHER THAN EXPERTS AND EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING FELLOWSHIPS, TRAINING AND UNDP-FUNDED. ALSO, NUCLEAR ENERGY WAS NOT PRIME TECHNIQUE FOR MAY SMALLER STATES IN VIEW OVERALL STATE THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COUNTRY PRIORITIES. RE: MALAYSIA, 4-MAN AGENCY MISSION AND DG EKLUND HAD VISITED THERE IN 1973; MALAYSIANS STILL STUDYING RECOMMENDATIONS AND INFORMED AGENCY THEY MIGHT PRESENT REQUESTS FOR 1975 PROGRAM. WHILE VISITING MISSION TECHNIQUE WAS USEFUL IN SOME CASES, GOSWAMI FELT PROBLEM AS PRESENTED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS QTE WAS JUST NOT THERE UNQTE.

8. PROJECTS NOT PRESENTED TO TAC: INDIA SUGGESTED TAC BE GIVEN LIST OF PROJECTS NOT RECOMMENDED BY SECRETARIAT, IN FORM OF "SCHEDULE D" TO TAC DOCUMENT. SEVERAL OTHERS ENDORSED. GOSWAMI REPLIES THAT HE FELT SUCH SCHEDULE, AS MERELY LIST OF PROJECT TITLES AND TYPES, WOULD ADD QTE NEITHER TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ENLIGHTMENT NOR TOEFFECTIVENESS UNQTE OF TAC WORK.

9.TARGET FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: INDONESIA SUGGESTED \$6-MILLION RPT \$6-MILLION FOR 1975 TARGET TO BE SET NEXT SPRING, AND ADDED THAT TARGET SHOULD BE INCREASED 20 PERCETN ANNUALLY THEREAFTER TO ALLOW FOR

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INFLATION AND PROVIDE REASONABLE PROGRAM GROWTH. VIRTUALLY ALL LDC SPEAKERS EXPLICITLY ENDORSED THIS FIGURE, USING VARIETY OF RATIONALES FOR DOING SO. INDONESIA SAID PROPER FIGURE SHOULD BE SLIGHTLY ABOVE VALUE OF ALL ASSISTANCE (FYI: QUOTED FIGURE IS ASSISTANCE FROM ALL SOURCES, INCLUDING IN-KIND AND UNDP. END FYI) PROVIDED BY AGENCY IN 1972 OF \$7.2 MILLION; HOWEVER, HE WOULD ACCEPT THE FIGURE HE NAMED AS COMPROMISE. COSTA RICA STRESSED NEED TO INCREASE TARGET TO THIS AMOUNT TO PROVIDE MORE RESOURCES FOR FELLOWSHIPS AND TRAINING. SEVERAL OTHERS USED TOTAL OF ALL REQUESTS RECEIVED FOR EXPERTS AND EQUIPMENT AS BASIS, AND OTHERS REFERRED TO GOSWAMI'S STATEMENT THAT JUSTIFIED NEEDS THIS YEAR FOR ASSISTANCE FROM AGENCY'S RESOURCES, INCLUDING FELLOWSHIPS, AMOUNTED TO ABOUT \$5.5 MILLION PLUS, AS AGAINST RESOURCES AVAILABLE OF ABOUT \$4 MILLION, INCLUDING BOTH CASH AND IN-KIND. PHILIPPINES POINTED OUT THAT IN 1960, TARGET OF \$1.5 MILLION HAD BEEN OVER 25 PER CENT OF REGULAR BUDGET OF \$5.8 MILLION. THIS PERCENTAGE HAD BEEN ERODING EVER SINCE, AND BALANCE NEEDED REDRESS. SINCE TAC DOES NOT DISCUSS TARGET OFFICIALLY, SECRETARIAT DID NOT COMMENT.

10. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PROVISION OF TAC AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, REVISION OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED
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FOR THIS SESSION OF TAC, WAS NOT PRESENTED TO COMMITTEE. SEVERAL LDC'S CALLED FOR SUCH REVISION TO INCREASE SECRETARIAT "FLEXIBILITY" IN IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM. DG REPLIED THAT REVISION HAD BEEN PREPARED AND WOULD BE PRESENTED TO FEBRUARY BOARD.

11. ADDITIONAL PROJECTS: ONLY OPERATIVE PROPOSAL TABLED BY LDC'S WAS REQUEST BY INDIAN AMBASSADOR THAT TAC APPROVE ALSO ALL PROJECTS LISTED IN SCHEDULE C OF COMMITTEE DOCUMENT (PROJECTS FOUND TECHNICALLY SOUND BUT NOT PROPOSED TO TAC DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS). AGENCY SHOULD NOT REFUSE THESE JUSTIFIED PROJECTS MERELY BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDS; HE NOTED THAT CONTRIBUTIONS BY 46 LDC TA RECIPIENTS (ASSESSED AND VOLUNTARY) AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN TOTAL OF ASSISTANCE PROPOSED IN SCHEDULE B (COMMENT: THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT SO FULL OF OBVIOUS HOLES THAT MISSION WILL NOT BELABOR POINT. END COMMENT). HE ACCEPTED THAT TAC DID NOT CONSIDER FUNDING, BUT SUGGESTED THAT IT APPROVE PROJECTS AND INFORM BOARD OF HIGHER REQUIREMENT FOR FUNDS; IT WOULD

THEN BE BUSINESS OF BOARD AND A&B COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUNDING FOR THESE APPROVED PROJECTS. INDIAN PROPOSAL WAS ENDORSED BY VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER LDC SPEAKERS. GOSWAMI RESPONDED STRONGLY, SAYING INTER ALIA THAT PROPOSAL WORRIED HIM GREAT DEAL, SINCE THERE WAS "NO PROSPECT" THAT ANY PROJECTS IN SCHEDULE C COULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN 1974. NEVERTHELESS, INDIA PROCEEDED TO FORMALLY PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO SUB-PARAS A AND C OF SUGGESTED ACTION IN COMMITTEE DOCUMENT TO GIVE EFFECT TO HIS SUGGESTION. THIS TOUCHED OFF SERIES OF DEVELOPED MEMBER INTERVENTIONS: UK OBJECTED THAT IT IMPROPER TO APPROVE PROJECTS FOR WHICH IT KNOWN THERE WERE NO FUNDS; US OBJECTED THAT IN ADDITION TO PRINCIPLE OF RESPONSIBLE FINANCING, WE HAD NOT GIVEN SAME CAREFUL STUDY TO PROJECTS IN SCHEDULE C AS OTHERS BECAUSE OF LACK OF DETAILS IN LIST, AND COULD NOT APPROVE THEM ON THIS BASIS. FURTHER, SUCH ACTION WOULD THRUST ON SECRETARIAT RESPONSIBILITY TO DECIDE WHICH PROJECTS TO IMPLEMENT WHEN, AS WAS CERTAIN, FUNDS DID NOT COME IN TO COVER ALL. IF TAC PROCEEDED TO TAKE SUCH ACTION, US INSISTED RECORD SHOW WE RESERVED OUR RIGHT TO COMMENT FURTHER ON ANY OR ALL SUCH PROJECTS IN ANY OTHER FORUM. IN RAPID-FIRE ORDER, FRG, SOUTH AFRICA, FRANCE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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SWITZERLAND ECHOED ONE OR MORE OF THESE OBJECTIONS. RESULT WAS TAC REPORT TO BOARD EMBODYING PARA 12 GOV/COM.8/47 WITH FOLLOWING ADDED TO END OF SUB-PARA C (IN WHICH BOARD IS INFORMED OF RESOURCES REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT APPROVED PROJECTS): QTE AND THAT AN ADDITIONAL \$1,256,800 WOULD BE NEEDED TO FINANCE ASSISTANCE FOR PROJECTS LISTED IN SCHEDULE C, WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY UNQTE. COMMENT: SUB-PARA A, IN WHICH TAC APPROVED PROJECTS IN SCHEDULE B, IN END WAS NOT RPT NOT AMENDED, SO OUR READING AND THAT OF SECRETARIAT IS THAT TAC DID NOT RPT NOT APPROVE ANY PROJECTS REQUIRING THESE RESOURCES. FURTHER MISSION COMMENT SEPTTEL. END COMMENT.

12. COMMITTEE PROCEDURE: AS CAN BE SEEN FROM ABOVE, TAC DISCUSSION STRAYED RATHER FAR FROM TERMS OF REFERENCE, WHICH CALL OF RIT TO CONSIDER PROPOSED TA PROJECTS. DESPITE SEVERAL APPEALS FROM CHAIRMAN, AND BRAZILIAN PERMREP, THAT WHILE FEELING FREE TO EXPRESS CONCERNS ON RELATED ISSUES, LDC'S SHOULD NOT ABUSE CHAIR'S LENIENCY IN NOT RULING REMARKS OUT OF ORDER, UK PERM REP STARTED EXTENDED PROCEDURAL WRANGLE BY POINTING TO DIVERGENCE FROM TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SUGGESTING SUSPENSION OF RULES TO PLACE DISCUSSION IN ORDER. BRAZIL CITED LONG SERIES OF PRECEDENTS PERMITTING TAC TO DISCUSS OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO TA PROGRAM, AND INDIAN AMB NOTED THAT DESPITE ALL DISCUSSION, TO HIS KNOWLEDGE NO FORMAL PROPOSALS HAD BEEN MADE WHICH WENT BEYOND TAC TERMS OF REFERENCE; HE INQUIRED WHETHER UK WISHED AT THIS STAGE TO HAVE PROPOSALS MADE ON

THESE SUBJECTS IN THIS FORUM. WRANGLE ENDED BY BREAK FOR LUNCH, AND CHAIR THUS ESCAPED DEFINITIVE RULING ON SEVERAL POINTS OF ORDER. COMMENT: UK REP LATER OPINED THAT TAC TERMS OF REFERENCE, WHICH DATE FROM 1959, PROBABLY REQUIRE REVISION INLIGHT OF PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT HE WOULD BE THINKING OF THIS IN NEAR FUTURE. MISSION SUGGESTS US ALSO TAKE THIS UNDER ADVISEMENT. END COMMENT. TAPE

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